Tullow House Day – Tuesday 21 February
Tullow House will celebrate their ‘House Day’ on 21 February 2017. This is an opportunity to acknowledge, observe and explore the Brigidine Order on which Tullow House is founded. The Feast of St Brigid is commemorated on 1 February annually and is very important to the formation of the Brigidine Sisters. It is hoped the Brigidine Sisters located in Canberra will be able to join us during the day.

Students will be required to attend normal classes during the day and will be involved in Tullow House activities during morning PC, PC Long lesson and recess. Tullow students are required to wear green accessories on the day and will celebrate together with a Tullow cake at recess.

To ensure the Tullow House Day is as successful as possible, students are required to follow the dress guidelines below.
- Wear green accessories with your full school uniform (green ribbon, nail polish, green socks).
- Please bring your full PE uniform for PE classes.

Co-curricular Activities Expo – Thursday 23 February (1.00pm)
Merici offers a wide range of sporting, cultural, community service, creative and outdoor activities for students. All students are encouraged to become involved in these activities. A program of social and pastoral events is also provided to strengthen the community and house spirit within the college. An Activities Expo will be held on Thursday 23 February at lunch time which provides students with the opportunity to investigate and enrol in any of the activities. There will be three areas where information stalls will be set up; the Gym, Old Quad and New Quad and activity facilitators will be present to answer any questions that students may have.
This year the following activities are offered at Merici:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Volleyball</th>
<th>Netball</th>
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<tr>
<td>Futsal</td>
<td>Snowsports</td>
<td>Waterpolo</td>
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<td>Dragon boating</td>
<td>Fitness Club</td>
<td>Marist/Merici Sailing Club</td>
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<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Band *</td>
<td>Cross-Age Tutoring</td>
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<td>Running Group</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Scheme</td>
<td>Social Justice</td>
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<td>Debating</td>
<td>Writers’ Club</td>
<td>Cosy Café</td>
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<td>Students Representative Council</td>
<td>Narragunnawali</td>
<td>Merici Book Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Literature is Good</td>
<td>Dance Troupe</td>
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<td>Gaming Group</td>
<td>Sew for Community</td>
<td>Gle@m</td>
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* Beginner band, Junior band, Jazz band, Senior band, Chamber ensemble, Beginner strings, Advanced strings, Choir.
Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 1 March
Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. On Wednesday blessed ashes will be marked on our foreheads in the form of a cross. The smudge mark made by the ashes is a visible reminder of the commitment we enter into during Lent and of the forgiveness and strength which is the gift of Jesus to each of us.

During the season of Lent we are challenged to reconcile ourselves to God. But the place to begin is to reconcile ourselves with one another. We need to fast. Perhaps we will be fasting from the hurts and grudges we bear against one another, the anger we allow to simmer away under our false smiles, the rumours we allow to go round and round, the finger-pointing we participate in, the inability to love ourselves and each other with forgiveness. We are encouraged to forgive ourselves, to forgive one another and to accept God's forgiveness in our lives so that we may live peacefully.

As members of the Merici College community we commit to raise money for Caritas Project Compassion and offer hope to the millions of families who fight for justice, peace and survival every single day. It is an ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of our Catholic congregation, all in the name of justice and peace.

Distribution of ashes:
Staff (parents and students welcome) - Chapel at 8.25am.
Students – PC time House meetings in the morning
Recess- for all those yet to receive their ashes.

Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 1 March (12.30pm-1.40pm)
The Bridge Restaurant will be open for lunch on Wednesday 1 March from 12.30pm – 1.40pm. Merici students are only permitted to eat between 1.00pm-1.40pm (timetabled lunch period). Families are welcome to come at 12.30pm. Please contact Reception on 6243 4100 to make a booking.

International Women's Day Dinner – Thursday 9 March (6.00pm) Tickets on sale now!
We will be hosting a special dinner to celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday 9 March in our restaurant with guest speaker Emma O'Sullivan. In a presentation designed to inspire and motivate, Emma will talk about why women often end up off track or held back in the pursuit of success, why it's so important (for you and your family) to listen to that voice of discontent and how you can harness it for powerful change, and the key ingredients you need to live a life worth living. Please follow the link https://tinyurl.com/jg8mu2m to find more information. Tickets available from ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au, telephone 6243 4178.

Preloved Winter Uniform Items on sale
We currently have a great number of winter school uniform items for purchase at $5.00 per item. Please see Gillian at Student Services for purchases.

Follow us on Facebook
Merici College now has a Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/mericicollege. We welcome you to view/like our page.
Cashless Canteen and Changes to Print system
Our Canteen has gone cashless! The new cash kiosk (the machine that looks like an ATM) located in the foyer outside of Student Services. This is where students can top up their Merici College Student Card with credit for both the canteen and printing – please use this facility instead of giving cash over the counter at the canteen. It's easy; just follow the prompts on the screen. Karl Kiosk now accepts EFTPOS and PayPass so students and their parents can now top up your student card at Karl with a debit or credit card.

Student Information and Medical Data Checks
Students have received in PC a printout of their current family information and medical details which are currently held at the school. It would be greatly appreciated if any chances are required, these are noted on the printout and returned to Student Services. Please note that ALL forms (with or without changes) need to be returned to the school with parent/guardian signature/s.

Road Safety Concerns
Teachers on duty along Wise Street have witnessed cars speeding in front of the school, well over the 40km/h speed limit. There are also a larger number of cars trying to drop off in front of the school along the designated bus zones in the mornings and afternoons. Please be aware that this causes major safety issues for students, traffic congestion and disruption to traffic flow from the general carpark on Wise Street, as well as the arrival and departure of school buses. All vehicles should obey the 'left turn only' sign as you exit the Wise Street carpark, and must come to a full stop at the school crossing and not move until the student is off the crossing. Students who are dropped off on the opposite side of Wise Street must at all times cross at the school crossing.

Your assistance with these matters would be greatly appreciated.

Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards
The Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards is an annual celebration that was established in 1989. The Awards recognise individuals and groups of young people aged between 12 and 25 years who have made a significant contribution through their personal endeavours, or who have been actively involved in the ACT community across the following six categories:

- Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award;
- Environment and Sustainability Award;
- Personal Achievement Award;
- Individual Community Service Award;
- Group Achievement Award; and
- Arts and Multimedia Award.

The Awards are supported by generous sponsors, with Beyond Bank Australia as the major sponsor providing $2,000 prize money for the 2017 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year. Other category sponsors include Riverview Group, QT, Anglicare ACT, Australian Catholic University, Youth Advisory Council and the University of Canberra, who all contribute $1,000 to each category winner.
Nominations close 1 March 2017. To submit a nomination please go to https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/YCCY2017. For further information or support submitting a nomination, please contact the Youth InterACT Team on youthinteract@act.gov.au or (02) 6207 2452.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Immunisations – Friday 24 February
The first round of Year 7 immunisations will be held on Friday 24 February. For more information please visit http://www.health.act.gov.au.

Year 7 Parent Transition Workshops – Monday 27 February (5.45pm refreshments for 6.30pm)
A special Year 7 transition evening will be held on Monday 27 February for all Year 7 parents and carers. The evening is about supporting a successful start to high school at Merici. There will be an information session run on the Year 7 Camp and preparing your daughter for the camp experience, followed by a rotation of three key sessions.

We encourage parents to attend this special event as the information will be most valuable to you and your daughter. Students are welcome to attend but are not required to. A flyer can be found on our website at https://tinyurl.com/zjhaxf8. Please RSVP your attendance to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Thursday 23 February.

YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Association (CSYMA) LEAD Conference – Sunday 26 February – Monday 27 February
Students in Years 10-12 are invited to attend the CSYMA LEAD Conference on 26 - 27 February 2017 as representatives of Merici College with other students in Years 10-12 from other schools and parishes within the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese.

CSYMA LEAD is a student conference that seeks to draw current and future student leaders. It will provide great insight into what Youth Ministry may look like at Merici College in the future. It is also an opportunity for students and Youth Ministry teams throughout the CSYMA network to gather, be equipped in ministry and formed in faith. LEAD seeks to resource those interested in being Youth Ministry student leaders to return to their school communities ready to share their ideas and faith with their peers.

- On Sunday 26 February, the Youth Mass and Rally will take place at St Christopher’s Cathedral (5.30pm – 9.00pm)
- On Monday 27 February, the LEAD Conference will be held at John Paul II Polish Centre (9.00am-3.00pm)
Year 11 and 12 Fashion Sydney Excursion – Thursday 2 March – Friday 3 March
An overnight excursion to Sydney has been arranged for Year 11 and 12 Fashion students on Thursday 2 March to Friday 3 March 2017. Students will attend a performance of Aladdin at the Capitol Theatre. The costumes, props, dance and music in this show are spectacular and will give students an insight into the work of professional costume designers, technicians and performing artists. Please follow the link https://tinyurl.com/gldedll to find the permission note.

CAREERS NEWS
Please visit the Merici Careers website, http://www.mericicareers.com/ to find comprehensive information on careers and the latest information that will help our students make decisions about their future career and life beyond school.

iC NEWS
It is all things reading for pleasure in the iC for the next two weeks. Our Co-curricular groups Cosy Café and Book Club have started, Monday lunch time – Cosy Café and Tuesday lunch time - Book Club. The students can bring their lunch to the iC and enjoy a good book or a lively chat. New members are always welcome.

Wide Reading has started for English/IH classes 7 – 11. Students are expected to read a book of their choice, in a silent, sustained manner for 1 lesson per fortnight and then borrow the book to continue regular reading at home. Many studies have shown the academic benefits of regular, silent sustained reading. Teacher Librarians help student select books, promote new books and online reading programs such as Overdrive during these lessons.

Happy Reading
iC Staff

SPORT NEWS
To stay updated on all sporting activities, please ensure your daughter checks our Sports Moodle page and/or Twitter @MericiSport.

Merici College Netball Registration 2017
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/hdng2gw to find information and registration for Netball 2017.

ATTENTION: Netball Trials Updated Information
Please note there has been a CHANGE in the time and venue for the morning netball trial session.

Grading details - Saturday 18th February for Years 7, 8, 9 ONLY
Year 7 - 9:45 am – 12:00 pm on the outdoor netball courts
Grading games will start at 10am
Years 8 & 9 - 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm in the school gym

We have also been informed that the Canberra Netball Association (CNA) are holding the U13 year’s representative netball trials at the same time as Merici, the morning of Saturday 18th February. If you are wishing to trial, could you please email the Netball Committee and attend the afternoon netball trial session for Merici. Email: mericinetball@gmail.com
Merici College Volleyball Registration 2017
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/ztmlpw4 to find information and registration for Volleyball 2017.

ACT Tennis Singles – Tuesday 28 February
Selected students will represent the College in the 2017 ACT Tennis Singles on Tuesday 28 February at the Canberra Tennis Centre in Lyneham. Play will start at 9.00am and students will need to register on arrival at 8.45am. It is anticipated that most players will finish by 2.30 pm, however, some players may finish at noon and some players may be required to finish a match begun before 2.30pm. Please follow the link https://tinyurl.com/jodr59m to find the permission note.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

DonateLife Walk - Wednesday 1 March
On Wednesday 1 March students and their families are invited to take part in the DonateLife Walk which is being held for the eleventh year here in Canberra. The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more.
This event is organised by Gift of Life and sponsored by the Australian Government’s Organ and Tissue Authority which promotes the national reform program in this sector.

Event Details:
Date: Wednesday 1 March 2017
Location and time: 6.30am-8.30am at Patrick White Lawns near the National Library of Australia
Transport: Students are expected to arrange their own transport to and from the event.
Cost: FREE with a complimentary breakfast and t-shirt, to be provided on the morning of the walk
Contact: Carmel Dinn (carmel.dinn@merici.act.edu.au)

SRC

2017 Blood Donation campaign
Merici College is kicking off its 2017 Blood Donation campaign through a series of regular blood donations. To facilitate this, courtesy buses from school to the Donor Centre in Garran have been organised for our students. The donor buses booked from Merici College for Terms 1 and 2 are as follows:

Monday 27 February @1.00pm - 3.15pm Tuesday 9 May @1.00pm - 3.15pm
Thursday 2 March @1.00pm - 3.15pm Monday 29 May @1.00pm - 3.15pm
Thursday 16 March @1.00pm - 3.15pm Friday 2 June @10.30am -12.30pm
Wednesday 29 March @1.00pm - 3.15pm Friday 9 June @10.30am -12.30pm
If you are 16 years and over and weigh more than 50kg, you are eligible to donate. Please check the SRC noticeboard or the Australian Red Cross Blood Service website for further eligibility requirements at [http://www.donateblood.com.au/](http://www.donateblood.com.au/).

Please note this service is available to students only. For further details or to book a place on a courtesy bus please contact the SRC Facilitator, Ms Sonia Conte at sonia.conte@merici.act.edu.au. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative.

**CO-CURRICULAR NEWS**

**Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike – Friday 17 February – Sunday 19 February**
The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike will be held on Friday 17 February - Sunday 19 February. The Year 10 and 11 girls alongside a number of Marist College students will be hiking at Blue Waterholes in the Kosciuszko National Park to complete the adventurous journey aspect of their Bronze award. Some Year 11 and 12 students will also be completing their Silver Award practice journey at the same time. We are leaving Marist at 4.30pm on Friday and back at Marist at 4.30pm on Sunday. It promises to be a busy and exciting weekend!

**Music – Canberra Show Performance – Friday 24 February**
Students have a very exciting opportunity to begin the 2017 year with a performance at the Canberra Show. The College Choir, Chamber Group and Senior Band, (String Group will be a backup) will perform on stage at 12:50pm. Unfortunately, Year 7 students cannot attend due to immunisations.

Students will be required to meet at the Jubilee Centre at 9:15am to pack the bus and then travel to Exhibition Park, returning to the College by 3.00pm Students will be required to wear full College summer uniform and will bring their bags, food and water with them for the day. Please follow the link [https://tinyurl.com/zr5o4va](https://tinyurl.com/zr5o4va) to find the permission note.

**Dance Troupe – Canberra Show Performance – Sunday 26 February (3.00pm)**
The Dance Troupe will be performing at the Canberra Show on Sunday 26 February at 3.00pm at the Community Stage (Bicentennial Gardens/Multicultural Food Precinct - see map at [https://tinyurl.com/hxmk4wo](https://tinyurl.com/hxmk4wo)). We hope to see many of students and families at the performance supporting our dancers.

**Marist/Merici Sailing Club**
A group of enthusiastic students sail at Lake Burley Griffin through a YMCA program every Monday of Term 1 from 4.00pm-7.00pm. They would love more students to join them and Mr Brady will even drive students there from school in the Merici bus!! Students do not need to be an experienced sailor. What better way to spend a hot afternoon? If students are interested, please email Mrs de Puit on robyn.depuit@merici.act.edu.au. Please note there is a fee of $120 for the term and a registration form that needs to be filled in.
**OTHER NEWS**

**Marymead 50th Anniversary Celebration – Sunday 26 February**
As part of Marymead's 50th Anniversary celebrations they will be holding a Family Fun Day at Marymead's Narrabundah site on Sunday 26 February from 11.00am to 3.00pm.

There will be a jumping castle and lots of free activities for the kids, a sausage sizzle and soft drink for gold coin donations, entertainment and more, so please come along and enjoy a day with the Marymead Community!

**Ainslie Football Club Open Day and Registration – Sunday 19 March**
Jess Bibby [GWS Giants Women's Team and former Opal & Capitals basketball player will be a special guest at the Ainslie Football Club Open Day, as well as the newly elected Board member Carrie Graf. There will be fun activities for players/participants, a kick and a catch with some of Ainslie's premiership players, opportunities to talk to the Club's physio and podiatrist about issues you may be concerned about (oscar schlatters syndrome is a common one), have a chat to coaches, music from Ainslie juniors, tour of facilities, BBQ, and much more.

Season Ahead, including new Girls Only Teams: The club is excited to see the growth of Junior Footy, and particularly the growth in Girls Footy. Season 2017 will see 2 new “Girls Only” teams at the u10s & u12s age groups, adding to Youth Girls teams at u15s & u18s. Overall there are teams/programs for Boys & Girls from age 5 onwards. Registration information is available at https://tinyurl.com/jps8oql or www.ainsliefootball.com.au/registration-c17qx.

**Uni-Norths Junior Rugby Club - PLAY GIRLS RUGBY**
Uni-Norths Junior Rugby Club is proud to participate in the inaugural year of the Under 13/14 and Under 15/16 Girls rugby in the ACT and is seeking girls to join the teams. Rugby is a game for everyone; it teaches great skills, encourages fitness, emphasises teamwork and is all about going the extra mile for your mates. The girls will play in a 10 a side competition, all the boys laws specific to each age group will remain, showing that girls play tough, skilful, quality rugby! Both experienced and inexperienced players are more than welcome. Information and registration for Uni-Norths is available at the "Meet the Brumbies" day on Saturday 18 February from 10.30am to noon at Brumbies HQ on the University of Canberra campus, and another registration day is on Sunday 5 March from noon to 3pm at Southwell Park, Lyneham. Come and try, purchase uniforms, meet the committee and get assistance with registration. For more information, contact uninorthsjnrs@gmail.com or head to owlsrugbyjuniors.com.au.

**Athlete's Food School Rewards Program**
The Athlete's Foot Canberra is an ongoing supporter of our school through their School Rewards Program. Every time you purchase any pair of shoes from the Athlete's Foot Canberra Centre, $5.00 will be donated back to the school. This applies to the whole family and across the entire footwear range, including school, athletic, work and casual shoes. There are no restrictions and it is unlimited.
UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Weeks 6 and 7)

Parent Workshop (Moodle) – Monday 6 March (5.30pm)
Parent Evening – Leading Students – Monday 6 March (6.00pm)
Moderation Day #1 – Tuesday 7 March
ACT 13 &O Girls Water Polo – Wednesday 8 March
International Women's Day Dinner – Thursday 9 March (6.00pm)
High School Beach Volleyball – Friday 10 March
D of E Silver Award Hike – Friday 10 March-Sunday 12 March
Canberra Day Public Holiday – Monday 13 March
ACT Diving – Wednesday 15 March
Year 7 Camp – Wednesday 15 March – Friday 17 March
Year 8 History/Geography Excursion – Thursday 16 March
National Ride to School Day – Friday 17 March